

LEXINGTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
Tuesday, November 17, 2015
Lexington Town Office Building, Selectmen's Meeting Room
1625 Massachusetts Avenue

All agenda items and the order of items are approximate and subject to change.

7:00 p.m. Call to Order and Welcome:

Public Comment – (Written comments to be presented to the School Committee;
oral presentations not to exceed three minutes)

7:05 pm Superintendent's Announcements:

7:10 p.m. School Committee Member Announcements:

7:20 p.m. Consent Agenda: (5 Minutes)

1. Vote to Approve Lexington High School Community Service Field Trip to Golfito, Costa Rica, February 16-25, 2016
2. Vote to Approve and Not Release School Committee Executive Session Minutes of September 15, 2015
3. Vote to Approve and Not Release School Committee Executive Session Minutes of October 20, 2015
4. Vote to Approve School Committee Minutes of September 29, 2015
5. Vote to Approve School Committee Minutes of October 13, 2015

7:25 p.m. Agenda:

1. Lexington Education Foundation – Updates regarding Trivia Bee, 2015 Summer Grants, Community Grants for 2015-2016 (10 minutes)
2. FY17 Capital Update – Hastings Window Air Conditioning Assessment (5 minutes)
3. Capital Plan - Scheduling Town Meeting Members Association (TMMA) Information Session (5 minutes)
4. Budget Planning – Discussion following November 12, 2015 Summit (60 minutes)
 - a) Review cost estimates for school projects
 - b) Options for Pelham Property
 - c) Reconsider options for multiple school projects
5. Member Discussion regarding November Massachusetts Association of School Committees (MASC) Retreat (5 minutes)
6. Finance Office Staffing (10 minutes)

9:00 p.m. Adjourn:

Policy AD: Mission/Vision of the Lexington Public Schools

The Lexington Public Schools serve to inspire and empower every student to become a lifelong learner prepared to be an active and resilient citizen who will lead a healthy and productive life. Educators, staff, parents, guardians and community members will honor diversity and work together to provide all students with an education that ensures academic excellence in a culture of caring and respectful relationships.

The next scheduled meeting of the School Committee is as follows:

- Monday, December 2, 2015 – 6:30-7:30 p.m., Cary Memorial Building, Ellen Stone Room, 1605 Massachusetts Avenue
- Tuesday, December 15, 2015 – 7:00 p.m., Town Office Building, Selectmen's Meeting Room, 1625 Massachusetts Avenue (Regular Meeting)

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

LEXINGTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

November 17, 2015

AGENDA ITEM TITLE: Lexington Education Foundation update

PRESENTERS: Janice Litwin and Riaz Adamjee

ITEM NUMBER:

PK.11.17.15.1

SUMMARY:

LEF Trivia Bee: The Trivia Bee took place November 10th before a full house in the LHS auditorium. It featured competition among 42 three-person teams, including a team of School Committee members. Because LEF was able to schedule the event the evening before a school holiday, attendance was even higher than in past years. Attendance is free and revenue derives from team registrations (\$375) and corporate and individual sponsorships and donations. Anticipated net revenue is \$13,500.

Notable summer LEF grants: At LEF's annual Grantee Reception on October 10, dozens of current Program, Fellowship, and School Community Grant recipients described their projects and the ways LEF support has strengthened their teaching, enriched their students' learning, and helped build a strong and nurturing educational and social environment. At this School Committee meeting, we are pleased to highlight several (of many) standouts; these are described in a handout.

2015-2016 School Community Grants: Every school receives a School Community Grant (SCG) each year. In the fall, each principal submits a proposal for one or several activities – to be undertaken during the current school year – to address interests and needs shared by the school's entire professional community. Five SCGs have been approved to date:

- Bridge School will design and build an outdoor classroom.
- Fiske School will augment its book collection.
- Hastings School will celebrate the school's 60th birthday by creating posters, texts, and photo albums documenting the school's history and celebrating its current diversity
- Clarke School will implement an online technology program for scheduling students into its new "What I Need" enrichment and intervention program.
- Diamond School will implement an online technology program for scheduling students into its new TIE enrichment and intervention program, and also bring ImprovBoston to campus for a sixth-grade community-building day.

Four SCGs are still under development; these should be in place by the end of 2015.

Bill Meade Memorial Fund for Special Education. William J. Meade, Jr., a dedicated teacher of special education at Lexington High School for more than 30 years until his retirement in 2000, died this year at the age of 77. Bill Meade's wife and three children have chosen to honor Bill's commitment to and leadership in special education by establishing a memorial fund in his name at LEF. The Fund will support projects that advance special education at LHS and across the LPS system. We have attached an announcement about the Fund.

Upcoming events

- FY2015 LEF *Report to Community* will be published at the end of November.
- LEF's 2015 Annual Appeal letters campaign will begin by the end of November.
- LEF's Alumni Reunion will take place on November 19. This is an unprecedented gathering of LEF's founders and past and current board and committee members to celebrate LEF's history and growth and encourage funding to sustain and build LEF in the future.
- LEF's first STAR Award campaign of the school year will take place this fall.
- LEF's annual spring gala, A Celebration for Education, will take place on April 2, 2016 at the Nashawtuc Country Club. The event will have a Bollywood theme.

SUGGESTED MOTION:

FOLLOW-UP:

DATE AND APPROXIMATE TIME ON AGENDA:

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Descriptions of Selected Notable Summer 2015 Grants
2. Announcement of the establishment of the Bill Meade Memorial Fund for Special Education.



**Lexington School Committee
November 17, 2015 Meeting**

Selected Notable Summer 2015 Grants

LEF PROGRAM GRANT

Summer Professional Development Workshops

The LPS Central Office, under the direction of Carol Pilarski, convened 20 professional learning summer workshops involving 106 educators from across the district on a variety of topics of educational/academic/instructional interest and importance. Among the many standouts were workshops on (a) a *Math Parent Series* that emphasizes the importance of sharing and partnering with parents around the district’s mathematics program, (b) a *Newcomer Curriculum for ELLs* for students who come to the district with no familiarity with the English language, and (c) three 8th grade *Student, Teacher, and Administrator Bootcamps for the 1:1 8th Grade iPad Project*.

LEF FELLOWSHIPS

Christen Walters, a 9th grade English teacher at LHS, attended the Globe Theatre’s “Teaching Shakespeare Through Performance” course in London. She explored text- and performance-based approaches to teaching Shakespeare while working with Globe scholars and directors of design, text, voice, music and movement. She described the experience as “a dream come true. It was three weeks of being completely immersed in the working theater. We got to work with the actors and directors . . . We were assigned roles which we had to perform on the stage. During those three weeks we learned active approaches to really teaching literature in an experiential way. We often teach literature to intellectually understand it, but this is a completely different approach in really experiencing what a character is feeling. You get to understand their reactions and the language in a completely different way. It totally changed how I teach literature, not just Shakespeare. I was so excited to come back and start the year teaching literature in a more active and engaging way.”

Kirsten Laicer, Ellen Silberman, Jesse Richardson, and Caroline St. Onge, 5th grade teachers at Estabrook, attended the Columbia Teacher’s College Reading and Writing Project’s Summer Institute on the Teaching of Writing. The institute introduces a unique workshop model that has been shown to boost student motivation and skill development in writing. Ellen noted that, “The work coming from TCRWP has been at the forefront of

instruction for at least 25 years and we were very fortunate to learn with and from the developers of writing instruction. The workshop method of teaching allows every student to make choices about his or her own learning with guidance from educators and whole-class lessons meant to be shared experiences for all. We worked hard while we were there and have shared so much of what we have learned with one another, our staff and other Lexington educators.”

Rick Rogers, Jodi Sandler, and Jim Werner, Clarke’s 6th grade science team, participated in a field experience in Iceland that explored the geologic principles and dynamic processes at work in a unique environment marked by widespread volcanic activity and glaciation. This program presented an opportunity to explore effects of and responses to climate change. In describing the experience, Rick said that, “Iceland might be considered the heart of the world. The geology is fantastic. It’s the place where the world is spreading apart. The people who led this work were so expert in the field that we got to do something that teachers in the field of science, for example, don’t get to do that often. We do so much on pedagogy, do so much on finding ways to get the information across. We seldom get to spend the time we’d like to spend on enriching ourselves with what we know. This trip was that. It was truly remarkable.”

Kristen Strobel, a 9th grade world history teacher at LHS, attended the 2015 World History Association National Conference in Savannah, GA, where scholars and teachers gathered to share the latest ideas and approaches in the field. Last year, the history faculty’s PLC decided to focus on incorporating nontextual, visual primary sources into the curriculum. The 2015 national conference theme, “Art in World History,” was ideal for this purpose. Kristen said that she not only gathered wonderful ideas, but was able to share them during the conference by “meeting” with her fellow teachers each evening on Google.

Kate Bromley, Diamond’s drama teacher, attended a Broadway Teachers Workshop in New York City. The workshop offered master classes with performers, creative teams, and production staff to share new teaching methods, enhance production skills, and exchange ideas with other teachers and professional artists. Kate said, “A hundred kids participate in my musical at Diamond every year and all the things I did this summer will help me in my directing and working with them. It makes my heart bigger.”



The Bill Meade Fund for Special Education

“Everyone should be given the tools they need to build a future full of hope. My dad taught more than math or history; he taught people how to be their best selves.”

-- Nicki Meade Draves

William J. Meade, Jr., a dedicated teacher of special education at Lexington High School, died this year at the age of 77 following a long illness. Bill taught for more than 30 years at LHS until his retirement in 2000.

Bill Meade’s wife, Janice, and his children, Peter, Sydni, and Nicki, have chosen to honor Bill’s commitment to and leadership in special education by establishing ***The Bill Meade Memorial Fund for Special Education*** at the Lexington Education Foundation. The Fund will support projects that advance special education at LHS and across the Lexington Public School system.

Nicki Meade Draves, Bill’s youngest child, explains, “The first thing I knew to be true about my father was that he was an educator and that he was devoted to his work at LHS. He’d bring me to visit his classroom from time to time and I always felt it to be a special place. Over the years he would share stories of students’ successes -- often those who had all the odds against them -- as every now and again one would return -- in uniform, or with published book in hand, or with their own children in tow -- to simply say ‘thanks’ and ‘look what you helped me achieve.’”

When her father died, Nicki told LEF, his family knew immediately that the appropriate way to honor him was by creating this fund. “We can’t thank you enough for your efforts in bringing this fund to life. Our family is grateful for the chance to preserve his legacy in this way.”

LEF is moved by the Meade family’s decision to entrust the organization with the responsibility for receiving and directing these funds to worthy special education activities in the Lexington schools. To honor Bill Meade’s work and continue his legacy of leadership in the field of special education, please donate to ***The Bill Meade Memorial Fund for Special Education***. All donations are tax deductible. Please make your check out to the Lexington Education Foundation. Enclose a note or write on the memo line that the contribution is for the Bill Meade Memorial Fund. Mail your donation to LEF at 594 Marrett Road, Suite 7, Lexington, MA 02421. LEF informs Bill Meade’s family of all donations (without specifying the amount of individual donations).